



TENNESSEE
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Agri-News

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OUTSTANDING YEAR FOR TENNESSEE FARMERS

Tennessee producers experienced an outstanding year during 2004, with new state record yields for cotton, corn, and hay, according to a recent survey conducted by USDA's Tennessee Agricultural Statistics. The state's cotton farmers produced the highest average yields and the largest number of bales since records first began in 1866. Hay producers experienced similar highs with the largest crop ever, dating back to 1909. Corn yields set a new high mark with production at its highest level since 1920. Soybeans farmers nearly matched last year's record yield and production was at the highest level in 22 years. Burley production also increased slightly from last year with above average yields. State Director Debra Kenerson noted that "Ideal weather throughout the year set the stage for a bumper crop and minimized the effects of unfavorable late season conditions."

NEW RECORD FOR COTTON YIELD AND PRODUCTION

Tennessee's cotton production is estimated at a state record 990,000 bales, up 10 percent from 2003 and 12,000 bales above the previous record set in 2001. Producers planted 530,000 acres, down 30,000 acres from a year ago, and harvested 525,000 acres, down 5,000 acres from last year. The State's final yield averaged 905 pounds of lint per acre, surpassing last year's previous record by 99 pounds per acre. Weather for cotton was excellent until late fall when above normal amounts of rainfall began to fall across the State. This wet trend continued into the end of the year and producers struggled to harvest their crop during November and December, as persistent rains caused numerous delays. Despite these setbacks, however, farmers still produced a record crop.

STATE RECORD CORN YIELD

Corn for grain yield is estimated at 140 bushels per acre, up 9 bushels from last year and 8 bushels above the previous state record of 132 bushels in 2001. Total grain production is estimated at 86.1 million bushels, up 6 percent from 2003. Tennessee corn producers planted 680,000 acres during 2004, down 30,000 from 2003. Harvested area for grain was 615,000 acres and 55,000 acres for silage. Silage yield, at 19.0 tons per acre, tied the previous record set in 2001. Silage production totaled 1,045,000 tons. Producers were able to complete planting slightly ahead of schedule in 2004 and were finished by mid-June. Ideal August weather helped to bolster what was already shaping up as one of the best seasons ever for corn. **Grain sorghum** production in 2004 is estimated at 1.53 million bushels, down 53 percent from 2003 and the lowest since 1999. Area harvested for grain, at 17,000 acres, was down 23,000 acres from 2003, while average yield at 90 bushels per acre was up 8 bushels from a year earlier.

SOYBEAN YIELD ONE BUSHEL FROM RECORD

The State's final soybean yield, at 41 bushels per acre, was only 1 bushel below 2003's state record yield. Soybean production, at 48.4 million bushels, was up 3 percent from 2003 and the highest in 22 years. Producers planted 1,210,000 acres and harvested 1,180,000 acres, up 60,000 acres from the previous year for both categories. Soybean planting began during the last week of April, but quickly fell behind the normal pace due to wet conditions. Virtually all of the State's soybeans were planted by the first week of July; however, development did not reach the normal pace until the end of August. Persistent fall rains provided good moisture for growth, but also caused considerable harvest delays. Despite these setbacks, the crop was rated in mostly good condition throughout the growing season.

BURLEY PRODUCTION UP SLIGHTLY FROM 2003

Tennessee's burley production, at 48.8 million pounds, was up 3 percent from 2003, the first increase since 1999. Yield per acre averaged 1,950 pounds, 50 pounds better than the previous year. Growers harvested 25,000 acres, unchanged from a year earlier. Tobacco transplanting began on schedule in early May, but quickly fell behind due to frequent showers. Despite disease problems and some wind and hail damage, crop development still progressed at a pace ahead of normal in mostly good condition. By the first week of November, growers had stripped over half of the burley crop. Production of Type 22, at 16.4 million pounds, was up 0.9 million pounds from 2003; Type 23, at 1.39 million pounds, was virtually unchanged from a year earlier; and Type 35 production was 1.40 million pounds, up 8 percent from 2003. Dark-type final yields per acre are estimated at: Type 22 - 3,100 pounds; Type 23 - 3,300 pounds; and Type 35 - 2,600 pounds.

(OVER)

RECORD YIELD PROMPTS LARGEST HAY PRODUCTION ON RECORD

Total hay production, at 4.88 million tons, was up 3 percent from 2003, and the largest crop since records began in 1909. All hay acreage, at 1.94 million acres, was down 95,000 acres from the previous year. Hay production, excluding alfalfa, at 4.75 million tons, was up 3 percent from 2003. Harvested acres totaled 1.90 million acres with a final yield of 2.5 tons per acre, up 0.2 ton from a year ago, and a new state record. Total alfalfa production, at 133,000 tons, was up 5 percent from 2003. Alfalfa producers harvested 35,000 acres. Yield, at 3.8 tons per acre, was down 10 percent from 2003. Wet conditions during the spring got hay harvest off to a slow start, but warm, dry weather by Spring’s end allowed farmers to make excellent harvest progress. During late summer, growers experienced mild, dry weather conditions which allowed them to continue cutting into the fall. Fall weather remained mild, allowing third, and sometimes fourth cuttings. Growers seeded 4,000 acres of alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures during 2004, unchanged from 2003.

2005 WINTER WHEAT ACREAGE LOWEST SINCE 1978

Total wheat acreage for 2005 is forecast at 290,000 acres, down 110,000 acres from 2004 and the lowest in 27 years. Winter wheat planting was underway by the first week of October with 5 percent of the crop seeded by October 3. By mid-month, 19 percent of the expected crop was sown, with rains helping germination. By the end of the October, rains had continued and only 28 percent of the crop had been seeded, with 20 percent emerged. By the end of November, only 66 percent of the crop had been sown, compared with 99 percent in 2003.

Crop Estimates: Tennessee and United States, Final 2004, with Comparisons							
Crop	Unit	Harvested Acres		Yield Per Acre		Production	
		2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004
		Thousands		Number of Units		Thousands	
TENNESSEE							
Apples	lb.	---	---	---	---	12,000	10,000
Corn for Grain	bu.	620	615	131	140	81,220	86,100
Corn for Silage	ton	60	55	17	19	1,020	1,045
Cotton ¹	lb.	530	525	806	905	890	990
Cottonseed	ton	—	—	—	—	311.0	352.0
Hay, All	ton	2,030	1,935	2.33	2.52	4,726	4,883
Other	ton	2,000	1,900	2.30	2.50	4,600	4,750
Alfalfa	ton	30	35	4.20	3.80	126	133
Peaches	lb.	---	---	---	---	3,200	3,500
Sorghum for Grain	bu.	40	17	82.0	90.0	3,280	1,530
Sorghum for Silage	ton	2	2	18.0	16.0	36	32
Soybeans	bu.	1,120	1,180	42.0	41.0	47,040	48,380
Tobacco, All	lb.	31.14	31.26	2,108	2,174	65,632	67,970
E. Dark-fired (22)	lb.	5.2	5.3	2,980	3,100	15,496	16,430
W. Dark-fired (23)	lb.	.40	.42	3,350	3,300	1,340	1,386
Burley (31)	lb.	25.0	25.0	1,900	1,950	47,500	48,750
One-sucker (35)	lb.	.54	.54	2,400	2,600	1,296	1,404
Winter Wheat	bu.	270	280	50.0	49.0	13,500	13,720
UNITED STATES							
Apples	lb.	---	---	---	---	8,613,300	9,458,900
Corn for Grain	bu.	70,944	73,632	142.2	160.4	10,089,222	11,807,217
Corn for Silage	ton	6,583	6,103	16.3	17.6	107,378	107,336
Cotton ¹	lb.	12,003.4	13,057.0	730	846	18,255.2	23,006.0
Cottonseed	ton	—	—	—	—	6,664.6	8,411.0
Hay, All	ton	63,383	61,916	2.49	2.55	157,585	157,774
Other	ton	39,854	40,209	2.04	2.05	81,312	82,391
Alfalfa	ton	23,529	21,707	3.24	3.47	76,273	75,383
Peaches	lb.	---	---	---	---	2,618,100	2,598,400
Sorghum for Grain	bu.	7,798	6,517	52.7	69.8	411,237	454,899
Sorghum for Silage	ton	343	352	10.4	13.5	3,552	4,763
Soybeans	bu.	72,476	73,958	33.9	42.5	2,453,665	3,140,996
Tobacco, All	lb.	411.15	409.06	1,952	2,159	802,654	883,171
E. Dark-fired (22)	lb.	7.80	8.00	3,013	3,100	23,504	24,800
W. Dark-fired (23)	lb.	2.90	2.92	3,505	3,642	10,165	10,636
Burley (31)	lb.	152.30	154.65	1,850	1,932	281,698	298,811
One-sucker (35)	lb.	2.84	2.84	2,748	2,843	7,805	8,074
Winter Wheat	bu.	36,753	34,462	46.7	43.5	1,716,721	1,499,434

¹ Production in 480-lb. net weight bales. U.S. production includes American-Pima Cotton.